Approved for Release: 2018/10/01 C06626846

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TELEGRAM

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

FROM	CLASSIFICATION
Amembassy BUENOS AIRES	CONFIDENTIAL

12065
E.O. XXXXX:
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJECT: (U) Timerman Conditionally Accepts Columbia Invitation

ACTION: Secstate WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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REF: State 054956

1. (C - Entire text)

2. Jacobo Timerman, through his brother Jose, asked the Department to convey to the Columbia School of Journalism his gratitude and conditional acceptance of its recent invitation. Jacobo received both the University's cable and letter of invitation at his home, asking for a prompt reply, and as he is not permitted to cable or correspond with other than his immediate family, he would appreciate the Department's transmitting his reply to Columbia. He would be pleased and honored to accept, depending on his ability to leave Argentina.

3. Jose Timerman sent a copy of the cabled invitation to Interior Minister Harguindeguy through MinInt Official San Roman on March 9, asking that Jacobo be permitted to depart Argentina to accept the Columbia invitation. He had not received a reply as of March 12. Timerman has also provided copies of the cable

DRAFTED BY	DRAFTING DATE	TEL EXT	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY
POL:YThayer:sz	3/12/79	278	DCM:MChaplin

CLEARANCES
POLCOUNS:WHHallman
USICA:RCross

CONFIDENTIAL
CLASSIFICATION

50163-101

OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-413)
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to the Buenos Aires Herald and La Prensa. There have been no press reports here to date.

4. Jose expressed doubt that his brother will be released to accept the Columbia invitation, though he seconded the family's gratitude for the continued interest and pressure from abroad. He cited recent press reports in Newsweek, the New York Times and Israeli and British press.

5. The Ambassador will raise the Timerman case with high-ranking Argentine authorities again, without specifically mentioning the Columbia invitation. Based on previous replies to the Ambassador's many earlier inquiries, it appears unlikely to us as well that Timerman will be released any time soon. Columbia's invitation, however, will once again underline the continuing cost of Timerman's confinement to Argentina's image. We remain in contact with Jose Timerman regarding the invitation and Jacobo's situation.

6. It appears to us that an additional, possibly useful means of carrying this matter forward would be Columbia's informing Ambassador Aja Espil of the Journalism School's invitation, briefing him on para. 3 of reftel and enlisting his good offices.

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